

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

Claims 1-88 (canceled)

89 (new): A method of providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface including an adjustable soft control able to change an attribute of an object over a continuous range of attribute values, said method comprising steps of:

displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated;

displaying a representation of the object in the pop-up window; and
showing in the pop-up window a training preview which varies the attribute of the displayed representation of the object, said preview exemplifying the nature of change in the attribute that can be expected to arise from adjustment of the soft control.

90. (new): A method according to Claim 89, wherein the varying step varies the attribute over a part of the range of attribute values.

91. (new): A method according to Claim 89, wherein the pop-up preview window is superimposed on at least one of a working display area and a control display area of the graphic user interface.

92. (new): A method according to Claim 89, wherein the representation of the object is a symbolic object whose shape is adapted to reflect the change in the value of the attribute.

93. (new): A method according to Claim 89, wherein said displaying step is capable of being one of enabled and inhibited.

94. (new): A method according to Claim 89, further comprising a step of displaying a representation of the adjustable soft control, and wherein said showing step further comprises showing, in ghost form in the pop-up window, the adjustment of the soft control corresponding to the variations of the attribute of the displayed representation of the object shown in the pop-up window.

95. (new): A method according to Claim 89, wherein the pop-up preview window can be customized by defining user preferences.

96. (new): A method according to Claim 95, wherein the customization comprises at least one of:

setting a nature of the changes, and

setting a range of the change.

97. (new): A method according to Claim 89, further comprising the step of coupling another soft control to said soft control, wherein the change

implementation by the soft control is dependent upon a current setting of the other soft control.

98. (new): A computer readable medium storing a computer program for providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface including an adjustable soft control able to change an attribute of an object over a continuous range of attribute values, said program comprising:

code for detecting positioning of a pointing device over the soft control, the positioning designating the soft control;

code for displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated;

code for displaying a representation of the object in the pop-up window; and

code for showing in the pop-up window a training preview which varies the attribute of the displayed representation of the object, the preview exemplifying the nature of change in the attribute that can be expected to arise from adjustment of the soft control.

99. (new): A medium according to Claim 98, wherein the change of the representation of the object relates to an attribute of the object.

100. (new): A medium according to Claim 98, wherein the pop-up preview window is superimposed on at least one of a working display area and a control display area of the graphic user interface.

101. (new): A medium according to Claim 98, wherein the representation of the object is a symbolic object whose shape is adapted to reflect the change in the value of said attribute.

102. (new): A medium according to Claim 98, wherein the representation of the object is a literal representation of the object whose shape is adapted to reflect the change in the value of the attribute.

103. (new): A medium according to Claim 98, wherein said displaying step is capable of being one of enabled and inhibited.

104. (new): A medium according to Claim 98, wherein said program further comprises code for displaying a representation of the adjustable soft control, and wherein the code for said showing step further comprises code for showing, in ghost form in the pop-up window, the adjustment of the soft control corresponding to the variation of the attribute of the displayed representation of the object shown in the pop-up window.

105. (new): A medium according to Claim 98, wherein the pop-up preview window can be customized by defining user preferences.

106. (new): A medium according to Claim 105, wherein the customization comprises at least one of:

setting a nature of the change; and

setting a range of the change.

107. (new): A medium according to Claim 98, wherein said program further comprises code for the step of ; coupling another soft control to said soft control, wherein the change implementable by the soft control is dependent upon a current setting of the other soft control.

108. (new): An apparatus for providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface including an adjustable soft control able to change an attribute of an object over a continuous range of attribute values, said apparatus comprising:

means for detecting positioning of a pointing device over the soft control, the positioning designating the soft control;

means for displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated;

means for displaying a representation of the object in the pop-up window; and

means for showing in the pop-up window a training preview which varies the attribute of the displayed representation of the object, the preview exemplifying the nature of change in the attribute that can be expected to arise from adjustment of the soft control.

109. (new): A method of providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface including an adjustable soft control able to change an attribute of an object over a continuous range of attribute values, said method comprising steps of:

activating the soft control;

detecting positioning of a pointing device over the soft control, the positioning designating the soft control;

displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated;

displaying a representation of the object in the pop-up window; and

showing in the pop-up window a training preview which varies the attribute of the displayed representation of the object, the preview exemplifying the nature of change in the attribute that can be expected to arise from adjustment of the soft control.

110. (new): A method according to Claim 109, comprising a further step of:

coupling another soft control to said soft control, wherein the variation shown in the attribute of the representation of the object is dependent upon a current setting of the other soft control.